

## Correspondence and Postal Reports.

## DOES NOT BELIEVE GOD HEALS.

LUDLOW FALLS, O., May 5th, 94.  
S. J. HARRISON.

DEAR BROTHER:—With profound regret did I read in the EVANGELIST that your lovely Homer is gone to his final reward—not regret for the happy change for him, but that a life so hopeful for good to others should be so soon ended.

Yet in his short life he has sown good seeds that will bloom and bear fruit to his credit in the Spirit world. No word of condolence can restore your loss.

I have feared that the shock to you in your bereavement might be heightened by the more recent hope that God would heal and restore him to perfect health in answer to the prayers of faith that were made for that purpose; for surely he seemed worthy to be the recipient of such special favor if any one can be.

Much as Dr. Dowie may disclaim connection with magnetism and human-electricity as the source of his so called Divine Healings, the fact remains that the most wicked and ungodly can relieve pain by this mysterious agency as well as the righteous. And as many diseases (the so called work of the devil) are mere functional disturbances, for want of the proper nerve stimulus, such diseases may be perfectly cured by magnetic or electric means as any other.

I have seen the intense pain accompanying tumor of the liver eased in a few seconds by one possessed of this mysterious electric power, without a real contact of the two persons. But the tumor continued to grow and in a few years destroyed the life of the patient, from the disorganized tissues involved in it.

So Dr. Dowie could relieve the pain in little Homer's tumor, but the diseased condition continued, and I now suppose it was a large abscess which finally broke into the cavity of the body and he sank suddenly from what is called shock, or from peritonitis.

Dr. Dowie may not know the secret of his power over disease, but a few such experiences ought to make him cautious in his assertions concerning it. It cannot be from God's infinite power or it would be uniform in its effect. We have no reason to think that the mental or spiritual condition of the young man who fell from the window and was restored to life at Paul's invocation had anything to do with such restoration. Infinite power restored his mangled form, guided by an infinite knowledge of the tissues severed and lacerated by the fall. I venture the assertion that no such healing has occurred in answer to the invocation of any mortal man since the days of the Apostles.

The means of relieving pain by impressing the nervous system are varied and numerous.

I knew an intense pain in the face that resisted all medical treatment cured by removing the patient to other lodgings and placing him in the midst of a cheerful conversation. An abscessed tooth almost universally ceases to pain when the patient has reached the dentist's office.

The most popular figures in human society as leaders are those having a high degree of magnetic, or electric powers which they have learned to use, and by which they thrill their admirers, and gain a more or less complete control over them. The same power is well adapted to impress the nervous system of others, and especially of their admirers, and relieve their physical pains and perform apparent and real cures when only functional disease exists. Such is the power also by which the confidence-man swindles his victim, as I have heard some of them admit.

This is a wonderful gift intended for good but like all other natural endowments it may be turned to evil.

To see one relieve pain and invoke God's power to heal disease, or to see his invocation apparently answered is no proof, that God by miraculous interposition answers such prayers.

So I would have you exonerate God from all blame for permitting a dangerous disease, to transplant little Homer into a Heavenly mansion regardless of the faith-cure treatment. Now by your love for him he becomes a magnet to draw you to that celestial abode. And in your bereavement it will be a solace to know that little Homer is beyond the reach of temptation of sin.

I do not doubt the power of God through Jesus Christ to raise the dead incorruptible, and when we have passed through this regeneration, and this mortal shall have put on immortality then is this work of the devil in us destroyed and not until then, for mortality itself is of the devil. Then why should infinite power exert itself to restore a diseased part of a mortal (or devil bound) body, only as it might be useful to convince the mind that mortality can be affected by infinite power through Jesus Christ and institute immortality in its stead, that death (or immortality) may be swallowed up in victory, and every enemy of our well being be thus put under Christ the head of the church.

Trust in an unsuccessful faith-cure treatment can only tend to produce in such a mind distrust in God, and tends to make us infidels.

The M. Ds. have a right to denounce all faith cure claims, because they are familiar with their deception. And the D. Ds., ought to denounce them because their unsuccessful practice tends to strengthen infidelity, and they are not warranted by reason of such failures in a spiritual sense.

The language of Jesus in Mark xvi, and 17 "And these signs will follow them that believe," etc., does not necessarily embrace all believers

in all time. But it did follow the Apostles and those to whom the Apostles imparted it, and then ceased, for having fulfilled its mission.

Since writing the above I have received EVANGELIST No. 19, and have read the editorial "More About Divine Healing," and see no reason why this should not have a place in the EVANGELIST; in fact I am more impressed that it ought to have than before. So far the discussion has all been on one side.

We have a minister in the Brethren church who could, twelve years ago when he practiced his electric healing, have eased the pain in Homer's tumor without touching him just as effectually as it was done when you suppose "God took away the pain," and when he could have seen him daily he could have kept it away.

When he touched my aching brow I was thrilled and shocked as by an electric battery.

We have a common form of blindness called Ambliopia that is only a functional suspension of sight, and power of magnetism to cure, in fact often gets well of itself.

Stiffened and distorted limbs may be limbered up and the lame from this cause made to walk by means of this human magnetism as I have known to be done by a most irreverent practitioner of this art.

Any pain, and any disease of the body immediately under control of the nervous system may be relieved, and many of them can be effectually cured by these magnetic doctors.

The simple fact that all cases are not cured by the Divine Healing is proof positive that it is not Divine.

I now fear that you have become mesmerized by the Doctor's magnetic power, and possibly I would have been if I was "running after every wind of doctrine," and listening for the "Lo! heres and Lo! theres."

One of the great wrongs to humanity by the Divine Healing practice is that many rely on it for a cure until death or until the disease has so far disorganized and destroyed body tissue that death is inevitable in spite of medical or surgical aid as I have seen in a few cases.

There is no other thing in which the American people are so easily humbugged as in the practice of the so called healing arts, and there is, scarcely anything in which their credulity is so much abused.

What the patient and his friends want to hear is "I can cure you, sir," and they are ready to take the medicine. He had far better trust the man that is not so positive, for he is much more likely to get honest dealing.

Yet this is the strong hold of the divine healers, "GOD WILL MAKE YOU WHOLE."

I remain very respectfully your brother in search of the truth,

A. PEARSON.

## FROM ROSENA, CALIFORNIA.

COVINA, LOS ANGELES CO., CAL.  
April 30th, 1894.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—With much pleasure and joy I write you of my visit to, and labors with, the Brethren at Rosena, in San Bernardino Co.

Altogether I gave the people ten "talks" and we had very appreciative audiences. As an immediate result two were baptized though one of these will leave soon to return to her native home at Columbiana, O. The resident members also seemed much encouraged and edified.

Of all the meetings it was ever my pleasure to hold, these are among the most cheering and encouraging. Hearts so fully resolved upon Christian work and life ever shed a blessed influence on surroundings; but very especially are such controlling agencies, though quietly and unconsciously exerted, helpful to the ministry. God bless the dear members for the blessedness of such help. And, O, that our ministry every-where were made the happy recipients of such kindness and help.

The Brethren at Rosena are enjoying one of the most healthful localities I have yet visited in Cal. A serious obstacle in the way of building up their country and developing its resources, is the want of water. This, however, they hope ere long to overcome.

Information regarding the place, climate, etc., will be gladly given by Elder John Nicholson, pastor of the Rosena Church, assisted in the ministry by our esteemed brother, Elder H. R. Holsinger. Fraternally,

P. S. GARMAN.

## COMMUNION SERVICE—BRO. BROWN PREACHED.

BEAVER CITY, NEB., May 1st, 1894.

Our Communion service was held Sunday evening April 22nd. We had a very enjoyable meeting.

Bro. E. L. Brown of Cambridge was with us; he preached for us in the morning, a very impressive sermon. Bro. Brown is ticket agent and telegraph operator at Cambridge. He is a talented young man and should be in the field as a minister. Such men are needed.

Bro. Bissell, and others were over from the Maple Grove church in Norton Co., Kansas. The spiritual condition of the church here is very encouraging.

Fraternally,

J. R. KELLER.

## CHURCH ORGANIZED—14 ADDED.

ALTON, W. VA., April 20, 1894.

DEAR EVANGELIST. I just returned from Pittsburg, Darke Co., Ohio, where I preached three weeks and organized a Brethren church. I found seven members. There were added to them as follows: Nine by baptism; three by relation from conservation branch, and two restored Success to the EVANGELIST and God's cause.

Fraternally,

J. W. FITZGERALD.